

SECRET**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**TO : [REDACTED] October 1956

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Trip and Progress Report, Contract RD-918A Marine Video System

1. On 26 and 27 September 1956, I visited the [REDACTED] Plant in Philadelphia to determine the status of the subject contract. Those contacted for [REDACTED] were:

[REDACTED]

Those contacted at [REDACTED] on the antenna portion of this contract were:

[REDACTED]

2. Fabrication of the electronic portion of unit No. 1 has been completed and delivered to the [REDACTED] for systems testing. The parts and pieces for unit No. 2 are currently being fabricated at the [REDACTED]. It is not anticipated that any changes will be made in the circuit unless dictated by the outcome of the system test now being conducted.

3. I visited the [REDACTED] to observe the status of the systems test. At the time I viewed the unit, it was not in full operation, although the installation work was well underway. As will be noted on Photograph 1 which is attached, the antenna system is mounted on a turntable. This turntable was especially constructed for this test and is in itself mounted on a track so that it may be moved at varying distances from the test antennas. At this early stage of testing it is difficult to determine what the systems performance will be. I was informed that the test should be largely concluded during the week of October 8. I requested that we be advised, so that we may have representatives visit the [REDACTED] to observe the operation of the system.

4. The blueprint attached is an assembly drawing showing the method of mounting the fiber glass dome on the lower antenna system and indicates the various dimensions. I have never been entirely satisfied with the configuration of the antennas for bands 1 and 2, but have been assured that apparently the limit of the state of the art has been reached to obtain relatively broad-band reception at these low frequencies over the beamwidths asked of this system.

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5. In July of this year, [] forwarded a letter to us advising that additional funds in the amount of \$57,000 would be required to complete all three prototype units, together with all necessary spare parts. Just prior to visiting [] on this trip, I was advised that SPB does not wish to approve the overrun, but instead to accept the [] alternate proposal to cut back to two systems and limited spare parts to remain within the funds. I was further requested to ask [] to prepare a proposal which would supply a complete complement of spare parts for both units. In addition, I was requested to re-evaluate [] earlier proposal to incorporate [] in these two units. [] was advised of this and will be forwarding to us a proposal covering the above items.

6. In addition to the problems concerning the Marine Video Systems, the program for the production of the "black Boxes" was discussed. This is for the production of the miniature Crystal Video pre-amplifiers to replace those now in service in "System 1." [] has earlier presented us with a proposal which would incorporate the necessary research and development work and the production of 250 units. Again just prior to this visit to [], I was advised that the method of approach, as well as the number of units which were to be built has been modified. In light of this information I requested that [] prepare for us a proposal as outlined. Research, development and production of ten prototype units to be done in Phase A. This will include all of the necessary research to produce a unit generally meeting our requirements and incorporating CW detection. Upon satisfactory completion of Phase A, and our acceptance of the ten prototypes, Phase B would then be initiated for the production of 170 of the pre-amplifier units. [] has advised that all necessary proposals will be in to us before the middle of October.

[]

Attachments:

Photographs 1-6
1 Blueprint assembly drawing

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